

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

The specification has been amended to eliminate some minor obvious errors. No new matter whatsoever has been added.

The claims have been amended to overcome the formal objections, place them in better US form, and define more particularly over the cited references.

The claims stand rejected under §102 and §103 mainly on US 5,136,755 of Shaw and US 7,137,617 of Sjostedt.

One of the main features of the invention is the fact that the filiform element consists in a single round composite strand peripherally mating with the tube along a continuous side contacting surface. Because the core of the assembly is a single round composite strand suitable for providing continuous side contacting surface with the tube, a firm connection between them is achieved. Moreover the mechanical-stress distribution is always uniform over the cross section of the composite round strand; in fact, when a central pin is inserted to make the round strand fit the tube, the composite expands uniformly.

In both Sjostedt and Shaw the filiform element consists of a plurality of filiform subelements kept together or intertwined to form a rope or a cable (see for instance FIGS. 4 and 9 of Shaw). Thus contact between each peripheral filiform sub-element and the tube is along a tangential line, so a plurality of separate contacting lines between the peripheral filiform sub-elements and the tube are formed.

An adhesive filler has to be provided to fill the free space between the peripheral filiform sub-elements and the tube and optimize the strength of connection between the filiform element and the tube. This filler plus the multiple strands are not equivalent to the "single composite strand" according to the invention.

The high friction the peripheral filiform sub-elements are subjected to due to contact with the tube could jeopardize their integrity. Thus the adhesive filler is necessary to avoid damage caused by the high friction the outer filiform sub-elements are subjected to due to contact with the tube, In addition mechanical-stress distribution is not always uniform over the cross section of the filiform element. In fact when a central pin is inserted to make the filiform element fit the tube, due to the not easily controllable relative displacement of the peripheral filiform sub-elements, the latter do not distribute uniformly around the internal lateral surface of the tube, so as a result the mechanical-stress distribution is not uniform over the cross section of the filiform element (see for example Sjostedt FIG. 7,

where after the insertion of the pin 14 the filiform sub-elements 62 are differently spaced apart each relative to the other).

Thus it is clear that, not only do Sjostedt and Shaw not show a "single composite strand," but that the replacement of their multistrand filled core with a single composite strand provides new and unobvious advantages. Thus the claims are patentable over these references under §102 and §103. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this

case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

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Enclosure: Request for extension (three months)
Corrected version
Substitute Specification
Substitute Abstract